Sugar-cane cultivation.

511. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether several hundreds of acres of land formerly under paddy cultivation are now under sugar-cane cultivation in North and Central Travancore;

(*b*) whether any statistics have been collected on the subject; and

(*c*) whether the price of molasses has been controlled by the Government, and if not whether this non-control of the price of molasses and control of the price of paddy have led agriculturists to take to cultivation of sugar-cane in the place of paddy?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) No. Sugar-cane and paddy are cultivated in certain lands in rotation.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The price of cane jaggery has not been controlled. The question whether the absence of control in respect of the price of cane jaggery has led to the substitution of the cultivation of sugar-cane in the place of paddy does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

Manure Depot at Kilimanoor.

512. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a representation from Kasthuri Bai Memorial Village Uplift Co-operative Society No. 2420, Kilimanoor, Chirayinkil taluk, in Karkadagom 1120 to establish a manure Depot at Kilimanoor; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken on that?

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: (*a*) Yes. An application has been received from the Society for the grant of an agency for the sale of manures.

(*b*) As information regarding the kinds and qualities of manure required and the maximum credit to be allowed had not been stated in the application, the Society has been asked to furnish the same through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Scarcity of rice.

513. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there was an unprecedented acute scarcity of rice in the State from February 1946 onwards; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the reason for such a scarcity?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Inadequacy of quota allotted to the State under the Kharif Plan for 1946, reduced quantity of paddy obtained under local procurement and an unprecedented increase in the demand consequent on failure of crops and return of a large number of demobilised personnel from war service

Kuttanad paddy fields.

514. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

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